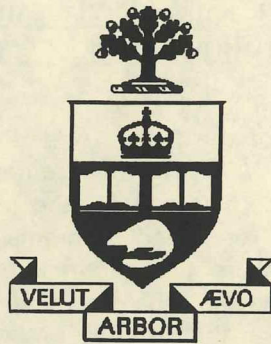


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THE ELMER ISELER
CHAIR IN CONDUCTING
&
THE ELMER ISELER
NATIONAL GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS
IN CHORAL CONDUCTING

Wednesday, April 7, 1999

4:30pm - 6:30pm
WALTER HALL
EDWARD JOHNSON BUILDING
FACULTY OF MUSIC
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

THE ELMER ISELER CHAIR IN CONDUCTING
AND
THE ELMER ISELER NATIONAL GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS
IN CHORAL CONDUCTING

The establishment of the *Elmer Iseler Chair in Conducting* and the *Elmer Iseler National Graduate Fellowships in Choral Conducting* is the cornerstone for the Faculty of Music to build internationally renowned programs in conducting. It gives us great pleasure to announce the appointment of Professor Doreen Rao to the newly created *Elmer Iseler Chair in Conducting* at the Faculty of Music.

Through the establishment of the Chair in Conducting and the National Graduate Fellowships, we are able to honour the lifetime achievements of a great Canadian conductor, composer and teacher, Elmer Iseler, who enjoyed a long association with the University of Toronto. Dr. Iseler is one of the Faculty of Music's most distinguished graduates (1950), whose many contributions to our University include his years as conductor of the UT Symphony and All-Varsity Mixed Chorus, and later as visiting artist and an adjunct professor of choral music.

The endowment of the Chair in Conducting and Graduate Fellowships sets down a firm anchor upon which we will build a world class graduate program in conducting, the first of its kind in Canada.

The Faculty of Music at the University of Toronto is an integral part of musical life in Canada, offering undergraduate and graduate programs in composition and theory, music education, musicology, and performance, including jazz and opera. We are extremely grateful to have this opportunity to link the Canadian musical heritage established by Dr. Elmer Iseler with the goals and activities of the Faculty of Music, and to contribute to the future of conducting and the study of choral music on a national and international level.

ELMER WALTER ISLER, L.L.D., O.C., O.ONT.
1927 - 1998

In a career that spanned five decades the *Dean of Canadian Choral Conductors*, Elmer Isler, was pivotal to the development of choral music in Canada. After founding the *Festival Singers* in 1954, Canada's first professional choir, he became Artistic Director and Conductor of the 180-voice *Toronto Mendelssohn Choir* for 33 years. In 1979 he established Canada's leading chamber choir, the 20-voice *Elmer Isler Singers*. He also enjoyed a long association with the *Toronto Symphony Orchestra*, conducting over 150 performances of Handel's *Messiah*, and often premiering complex twentieth century music. Under his baton, Dr. Isler's choirs achieved international stature for their technical brilliance and artistic versatility. He has, in the estimation of many of his peers, conductors, and professional musicians in Canada and abroad, created a vibrant world class choral infrastructure in Canada.

While the breadth of his achievements are many, several critical contributions make Dr. Isler singular in his legacy to Canada. He achieved a sound and technique in choral singing which was without parallel in Canada, establishing a benchmark in Canadian choral music to which other choirs across this country, and internationally, aspire. He established a tradition of commissioning Canadian compositions, fostering that goal as one of his priorities. He encouraged young Canadian performers, deriving great enjoyment from making music with young people; this pleasure was reflected in his work with the *National and Ontario Youth Choirs*. He taught choral music at UofT 1965-68, and was appointed Adjunct Professor of Choral Music in the fall of 1997, where he and the *Elmer Isler Singers* as the professional choir-in-residence at the Faculty of Music, worked directly with the students.

The most decorated musician in Canada, and honoured with many awards nationally and internationally, including an honorary doctorate from UofT, his impact will continue undiminished through his many recordings, the ongoing performances and work of the *Elmer Isler Singers*, and through the *Elmer Isler Chair in Conducting* and the *Elmer Isler National Graduate Fellowships in Choral Conducting* at the University of Toronto.

DR. DOREEN RAO
ELMER ISLER CHAIR IN CONDUCTING

Doreen Rao is a celebrated conductor and distinguished scholar whose work in music performance and music education is recognized throughout the world.

Since 1988, she has served as Associate Professor of Music and Director of Choral Programs at the *University of Toronto - Faculty of Music*, where she conducts and teaches the MacMillan Singers, the UT Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, graduate and undergraduate studies in choral conducting and choral literature, music education research, and voice.

During her seventeen-year association with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Doreen Rao served as assistant conductor of the Chicago Symphony Chorus under the direction of Margaret Hillis, her teacher and mentor. As Music Director and Conductor of the celebrated Glen Ellyn Children's Chorus, Rao prepared her young singers for concerts, tours, and recorded performances that won four Grammy Awards and a Grand Prix du Disque under Sir Georg Solti, Margaret Hillis and James Levine.

As one of the world's leading authorities on young choirs, Dr. Rao founded the *ACDA National Committee on Children's Choirs*, chairing it for ten years. She has inspired the development of hundreds of young choirs and their conductors through North America. Her **Choral Music Experience** concept of music performance as music education serves as the theoretical basis of her influential publications including her choral textbook *We Will Sing!*, her teacher resource texts, and her extensive choral music series which she authors and edits as a comprehensive music education curriculum published by Boosey & Hawkes.

Rao conducts regularly at national and international festivals and conferences throughout North America, the United Kingdom, Europe, Scandinavia, Africa, and Australia. In addition to her conducting and lecturing appearances around the world, Doreen Rao's commitment to bridging practice and research continues in a wide variety of professional and educational performance contexts in Canada and the United States. The eminent American conductor Robert Shaw wrote of Rao: "The world of choral music owes her special thanks. She is preparing our future."

Sir David Willcocks, CBE MC
Wilma & Clifford Smith Visitor in Music
Distinguished Visitor Award Recipient

The Faculty of Music at the University of Toronto is proud to present the *Distinguished Visitor Award* to Sir David Willcocks, internationally renowned choral conductor. Chosen from a roster of eminent visiting artists and scholars of the highest musical and scholarly repute, the recipients have set exemplary records in their respective disciplines and made a noteworthy contribution to the academic and performance programs at the Faculty of Music during their visit. The award, which takes the form of a medallion designed by Canadian artist Sandra Noble Goss, will be presented to Sir David Willcocks on this occasion as the Wilma & Clifford Smith Visitor in Music, April 7-10th, 1999.

Sir David Willcocks was born in 1919 in Cornwall. He began his musical training at the age of nine as a chorister at Westminster Abbey, later winning scholarships to Clifton College and King's College Cambridge where he took his BA and BMus. During the war he was awarded an MC while serving in Normandy. On returning home, he was elected a Fellow of King's College Cambridge, and appointed Conductor of the Cambridge Philharmonic Society. Subsequently he became Organist of Salisbury Cathedral, and later of Worcester Cathedral. He was responsible for the Three Choirs Festivals of 1951, 1954 and 1957. From 1957 to 1974 he was Director of Music at King's College Cambridge, University Lecturer in Music and Conductor of the Cambridge University Musical Society. He was Director of the Royal College of Music from 1974 to 1984 during which time he received his knighthood in The Queen's Silver Jubilee Honours.

Sir David was Musical Director of *The Bach Choir* from 1960 to 1998. For 38 years his personal magnetism inspired performances of vivid excitement, power and sensitivity. Under his direction, both *The Bach Choir* and *King's College Choir* have made many recordings of great choral and orchestral works with leading orchestras. He is the recipient of many awards and honorary degrees both in the UK and abroad. With his energy, enthusiasm and good sense of humour he continues to stand for choral training and musical excellence worldwide. His international reputation ensures a full schedule of commitments as guest conductor and clinician around the world. It is with great pleasure the Faculty of Music welcomes Sir David Willcocks to the University of Toronto.

- ANNOUNCEMENT PROGRAM -

'Awake my Heart' from Shades of Love

R. Watson Henderson (b.1932)

UT MacMillan Singers – Doreen Rao, conductor

REMARKS

The Honourable Henry N.R. Jackman

Chancellor, University of Toronto

David W. Beach

Dean, Faculty of Music

Doreen Rao

Elmer Iseler Chair in Conducting

'O Magnum Mysterium'

Morten Lauridsen (b.1943)

Elmer Iseler Singers – Lydia Adams, conductor

J. Robert S. Prichard

President, University of Toronto

Vern Heinrichs

On behalf of the Heinrichs Foundation

Presentation of the Distinguished Visitor Award to

Sir David Willcocks

Wilma & Clifford Smith Visitor in Music

Iseler Family Member

On behalf of the Iseler Family

'There is an Old Belief' from Songs of Farewell

Hubert H. Parry (1848-1918)

UT MacMillan Singers & Elmer Iseler Singers – Doreen Rao, conductor

The Honourable Henry N.R. Jackman

Chancellor, University of Toronto

Post-Announcement Reception in Geiger-Torel Room

THE ELMER ISLER CHAIR IN CONDUCTING

OTHER EVENTS

Conducting Masterclass

Thursday, April 8, 1999

12:10 – 3PM

Walter Hall

Faculty of Music

The Elmer Iseler Singers with Sir David Willcocks,
Wilma & Clifford Smith Visitor to the Faculty of Music,
eminent conductor and world renowned authority in choral music.
Open to the public, free admission.

A Tribute to Elmer Iseler

Saturday, April 10, 1999

8:00pm

MacMillan Theatre

Faculty of Music

University of Toronto Symphony Orchestra & Choirs

Doreen Rao, conductor

Sir David Willcocks, guest conductor

Elmer Iseler Singers, Professional Choir-in-Residence

Lydia Adams, guest conductor

Concert tickets: \$10 Adults \$5 Students/Seniors

Great Hymns of the World

Sunday, April 11, 1999

7:00pm

St. James Cathedral

(King & Church)

Elmer Iseler Singers – Lydia Adams, conductor

UT MacMillan Singers – Doreen Rao, conductor

Sir David Willcocks, guest conductor

The UT MacMillan Singers join the Elmer Iseler Singers and
organist Giles Bryant for a splendid evening of great hymns and anthems.

Tickets: (416) 217-0537

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The British Consulate-General, Toronto

Christine Bib Catering

Cott Beverages Canada

Crystal Springs Bottled Water

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